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THE QUESTION BOX

THE MEANING OF MONDOVI

I notice in the December number of the *WISCONSIN MAGAZINE OF HISTORY* an inquiry regarding the name of the city of Mondovi, Wisconsin.

As near as I can learn, this name was given to the pioneer settlement on Beef River (called by the early French traders *Rivière de Boeuf*) by Elihu B. Gifford, who was born at Scott's Corners, Saratoga County, New York, and who came to what is now the city of Mondovi in the year 1856.

Mr. Gifford was well educated, considering the time in which he lived, and was an incessant reader. Like a few of the early settlers, all of whom were eastern Yankee stock, he was a subscriber to the *New York Ledger*, a weekly paper at that time edited by Robert Bonner. This paper was a voluminous publication, and in addition to current news always contained a few spicy novels, and generally devoted considerable space to history, and it is said that Mr. Gifford, in reading an account of the Napoleonic wars in this paper, was struck by the name Mondovi, a town in northwestern Italy where a battle was fought on April 22, 1796, in which the Sardinian forces were completely defeated by Napoleon.

Any American visiting Paris and making a careful inspection of the inside of the Arch of Triumph will find the name Mondovi in fourth place from the top, said list of names being the important battles fought by Napoleon in his Italian campaign.

Mr. Gifford went overland in an emigrant wagon to Spokane, Washington, in May, 1878, along with about forty others from the little village of Mondovi. Later he named the village of Mondovi, Washington.

D. A. WHELAN,
Mondovi

THE LANDING PLACE OF JEAN NICOLET

I would like to ask if you have an idea where the spot is where Jean Nicolet made his visit to a Wisconsin Winnebago Indian village in 1634. Was it on the shore of Lake Michigan or Lake Winnebago, and how can it be reached? I am a descendant of the Winnebago and would like to pay a visit to the place.

ULYSSES S. WHITE,
Greenwood

So far as historians know, Jean Nicolet was the first white man to visit Wisconsin, and at that time (1634) the Winnebago